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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
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SEGA®
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SANFORD
DIRECT EDITION
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...Alone

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 155, Jan., 2006. Published every 4 weeks, twice in Feb., by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.25 in the U.S.; $2.65 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $29.25 for 13 issues; $34.45 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

"--ZAT SOON I WILL RULE OVER ZEE KINGDOM OF ACORN--
"--AND NOT EVEN ZAT PIG SONIC THE HEDGEHOG CAN STOP ME!"
SPEAKING OF WHICH, JUST OUTSIDE OF KNOTHOLE PROPER, WE FIND...
SONIC!
HEY! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
LINE OF SUCCESSION
Part One
Writer: Ken Penders
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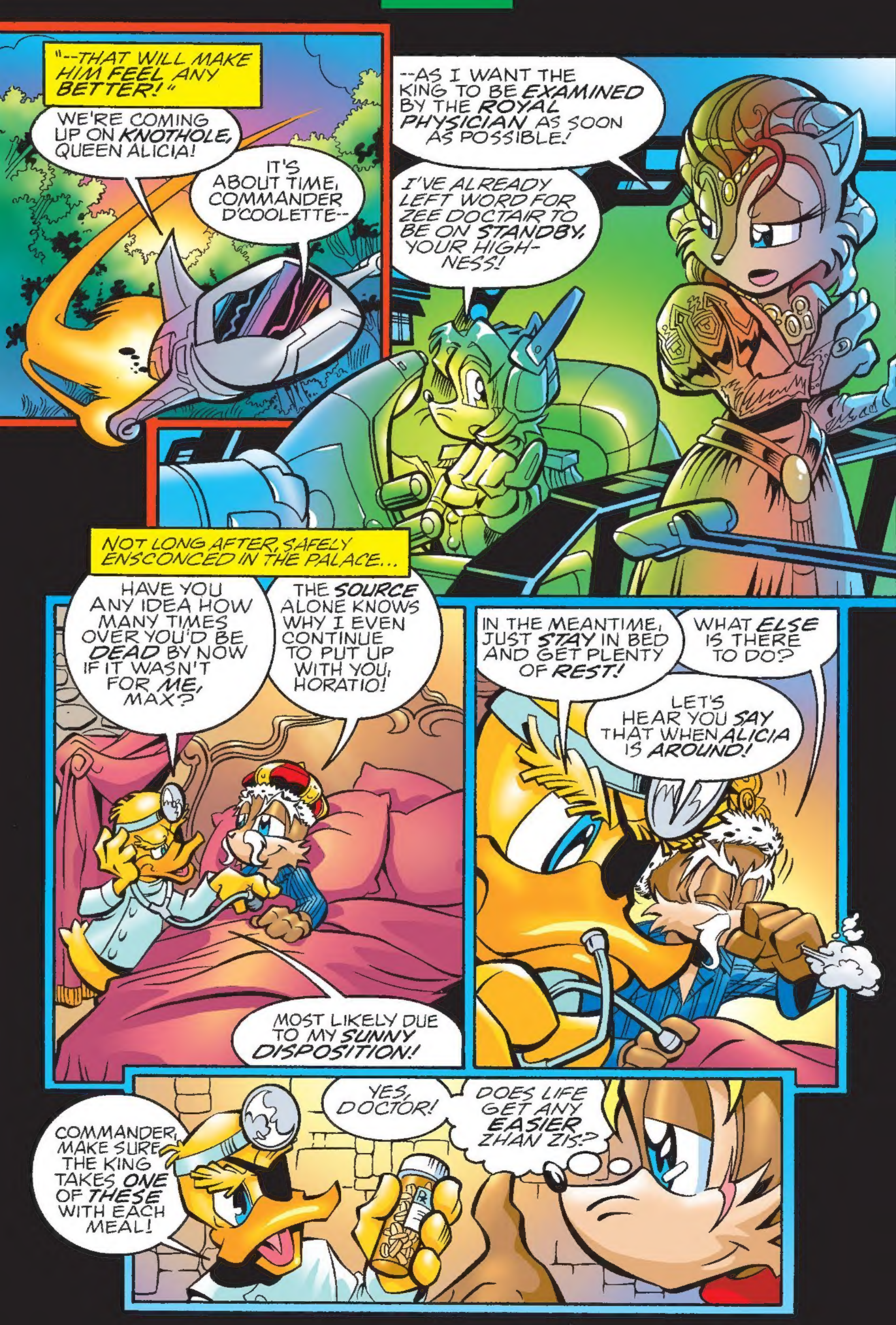
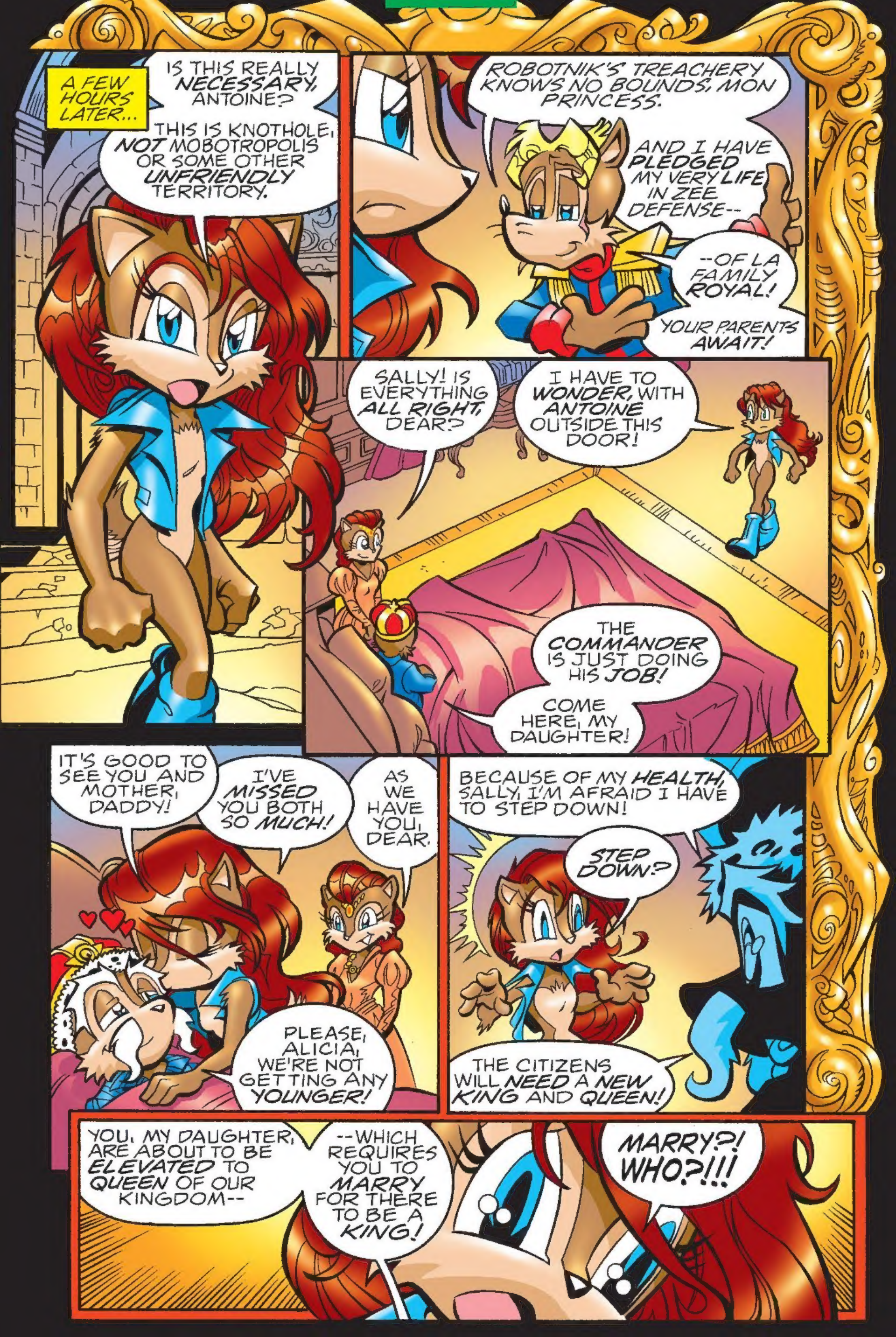
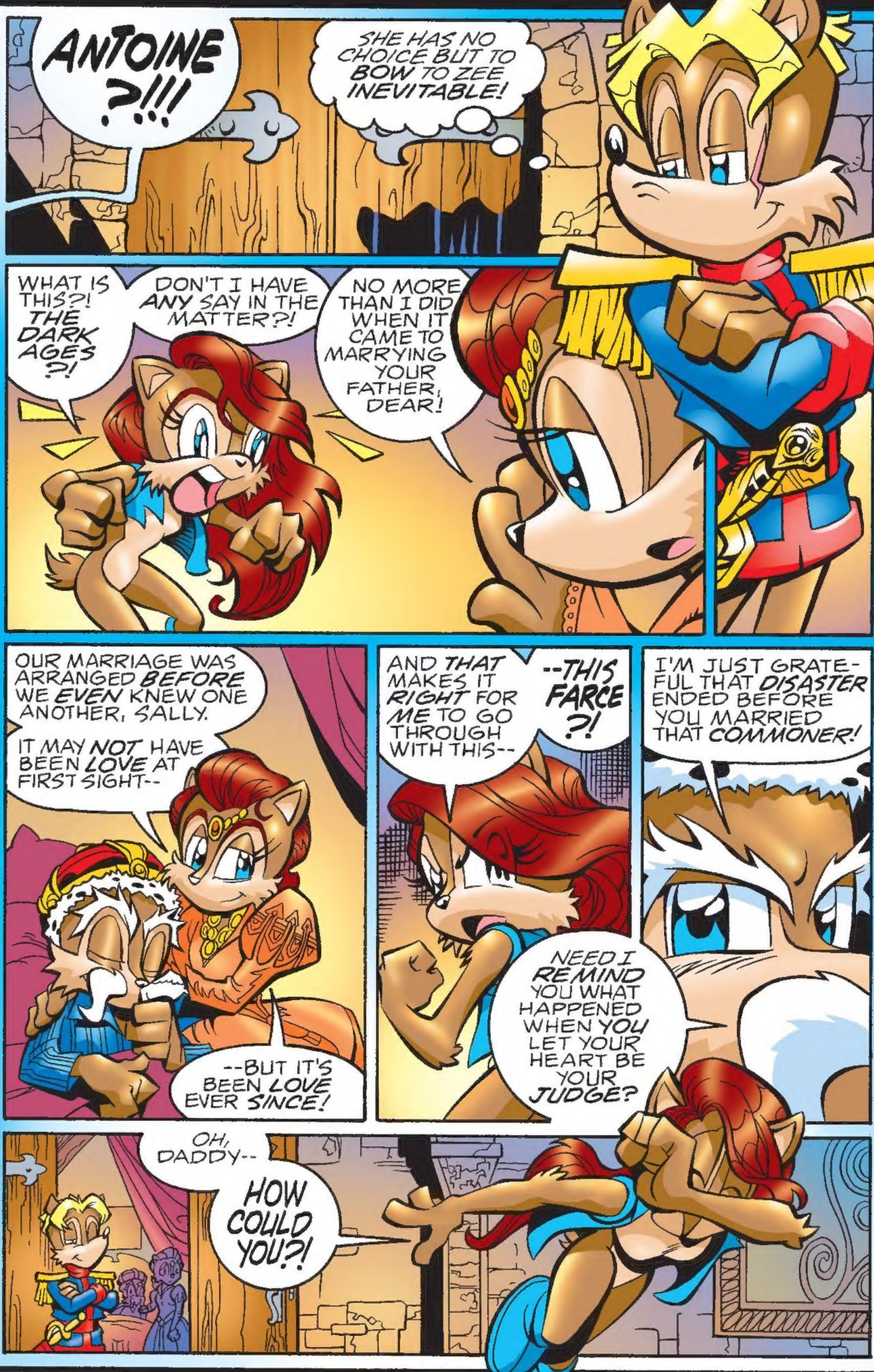
Editor In Chief: Richard Goldwater
Special Thanks to Robert Leffler and Dyna Lopez at Sega Licensing
AWWP!!!
NOT AGAIN!!!*
FIONA!
*TAILS IS REFERRING TO A SIMILAR AWKWARD MOMENT AS WITNESSED RECENTLY IN SONIC # 150

SONIC! I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND!
HOW COULD YOU--
--WITH HER--
--OUT OF ALL THE FOXES?!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, JUNIOR! TIME OUT!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I HAVE BAD BREATH OR SOMETHING?
NONONONONO! IT'S JUST THAT-- IT'S JUST--
YES? YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER'S ON YOUR MIND, TAILS!
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE EVER SINCE I FIRST MET YOU, AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY!
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, WE BECAME MORE THAN JUST FRIENDS--
--UNTIL I DISCOVERED THAT FIONA WAS A ROBOT!*
T+F
*THE CLASSIC "GROWING PAINS," AS SEEN IN SONIC #28 & #29.
SO WHEN YOU ACTUALLY TURNED UP, I HAD HOPED--
I HOPED--
YOU HOPED WHAT?
YOU AND ME?
TAILS, ROBOTNIK MADE THAT ROBOT BASED ON ME WHEN I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE!*
I'M NOW SIXTEEN YEARS OLD!
AND YOU'RE WHAT?
TEN?
*AS CHRONICLED IN KNUCKLES #28.

ELEVEN! BUT YOU COULD--
SOME-DAY?
MAYBE--?
TAILS, I THINK YOU'RE A SWEET BOY--
--AND I REALLY LIKE YOU!
BUT NOT IN A ROMANTIC WAY!
IT'S JUST THAT I PREFER BOYFRIENDS CLOSER TO MY OWN AGE--
--LIKE SONIC!
I HATE YOU!!!!
TAILS!
LET HIM GO, SONIC!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY OR DO--


"--THAT WILL MAKE HIM FEEL ANY BETTER!"
WE'RE COMING UP ON KNOTHOLE, QUEEN ALICIA!
IT'S ABOUT TIME, COMMANDER D'COOLETTE--
--AS I WANT THE KING TO BE EXAMINED BY THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
I'VE ALREADY LEFT WORD FOR ZEE DOCTAIR TO BE ON STANDBY, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
NOT LONG AFTER, SAFELY ENSCONCED IN THE PALACE...
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES OVER YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, MAX?
THE SOURCE ALONE KNOWS WHY I EVEN CONTINUE TO PUT UP WITH YOU, HORATIO!
MOST LIKELY DUE TO MY SUNNY DISPOSITION!
IN THE MEANTIME, JUST STAY IN BED AND GET PLENTY OF REST!
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO?
LET'S HEAR YOU SAY THAT WHEN ALICIA IS AROUND!
COMMANDER, MAKE SURE THE KING TAKES ONE OF THESE WITH EACH MEAL!
YES, DOCTOR!
DOES LIFE GET ANY EASIER ZHAN ZIS?


A FEW HOURS LATER...
IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY, ANTOINE?
THIS IS KNOTHOLE, NOT MOBOTROPOLIS OR SOME OTHER UNFRIENDLY TERRITORY.
ROBOTNIK'S TREACHERY KNOWS NO BOUNDS, MON PRINCESS.
AND I HAVE PLEDGED MY VERY LIFE IN ZEE DEFENSE--
--OF LA FAMILY ROYAL!
YOUR PARENTS AWAIT!
SALLY! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, DEAR?
I HAVE TO WONDER, WITH ANTOINE OUTSIDE THIS DOOR!
THE COMMANDER IS JUST DOING HIS JOB!
COME HERE, MY DAUGHTER!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AND MOTHER, DADDY!
I'VE MISSED YOU BOTH SO MUCH!
AS WE HAVE YOU, DEAR.
PLEASE, ALICIA, WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!
BECAUSE OF MY HEALTH, SALLY, I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO STEP DOWN!
STEP DOWN?
THE CITIZENS WILL NEED A NEW KING AND QUEEN!
YOU, MY DAUGHTER, ARE ABOUT TO BE ELEVATED TO QUEEN OF OUR KINGDOM--
--WHICH REQUIRES YOU TO MARRY FOR THERE TO BE A KING!
MARRY?! WHO?!!!


ANTOINE ?!!!
SHE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BOW TO ZEE INEVITABLE!
WHAT IS THIS?! THE DARK AGES ?!
DON'T I HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER?!
NO MORE THAN I DID WHEN IT CAME TO MARRYING YOUR FATHER, DEAR!
OUR MARRIAGE WAS ARRANGED BEFORE WE EVEN KNEW ONE ANOTHER, SALLY.
IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT--
--BUT IT'S BEEN LOVE EVER SINCE!
AND THAT MAKES IT RIGHT FOR ME TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS--
--THIS FARCE ?!
NEED I REMIND YOU WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU LET YOUR HEART BE YOUR JUDGE?
I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT DISASTER ENDED BEFORE YOU MARRIED THAT COMMONER!
OH, DADDY--
HOW COULD YOU?!

LATER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF KNOTHOLE...

YOU'RE A NATURAL WITH THAT GUITAR, SON!

HOW ABOUT PLAYING STRAWBERRY VALLEY FOR ME?

AWW, MOM!

THAT SONG IS SOOO LAME--

--EVEN THE SCHOOL BAND WON'T PLAY IT!

DINGDONG

WE'LL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER AFTER I SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR!

SAVED BY THE BELL!

POOR MOM! HER FAVES ARE JUST SO YESTERDAY!

BUNNIE! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY CRIB, BABE?

HEY! WHY THE SOUR PUSS?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS!

I WAS VISITING WITH SALLY AND--

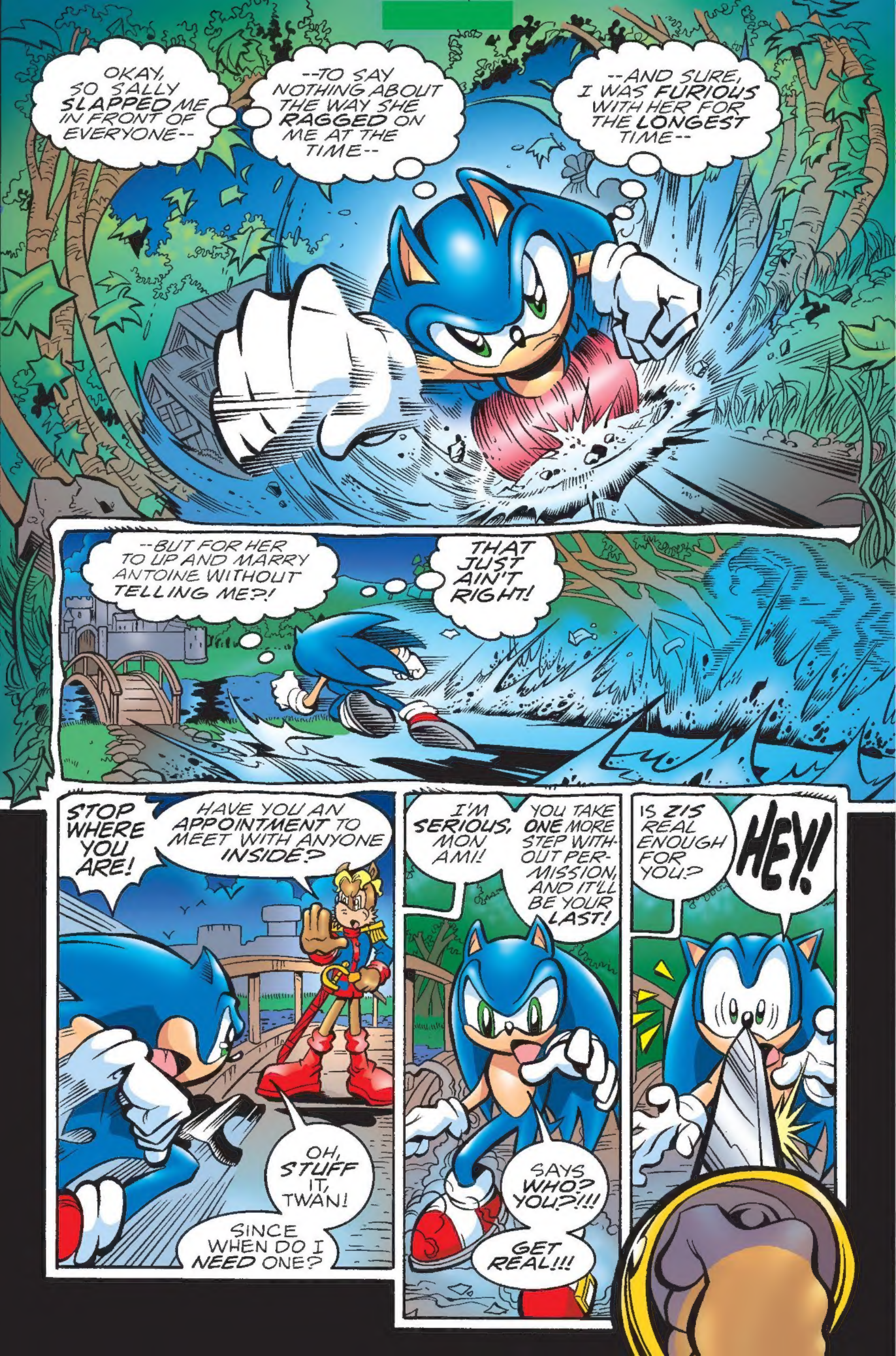
THIS IS SO HARD !!!

WHATEVER IT IS, JUST SAY IT, WILLYA?

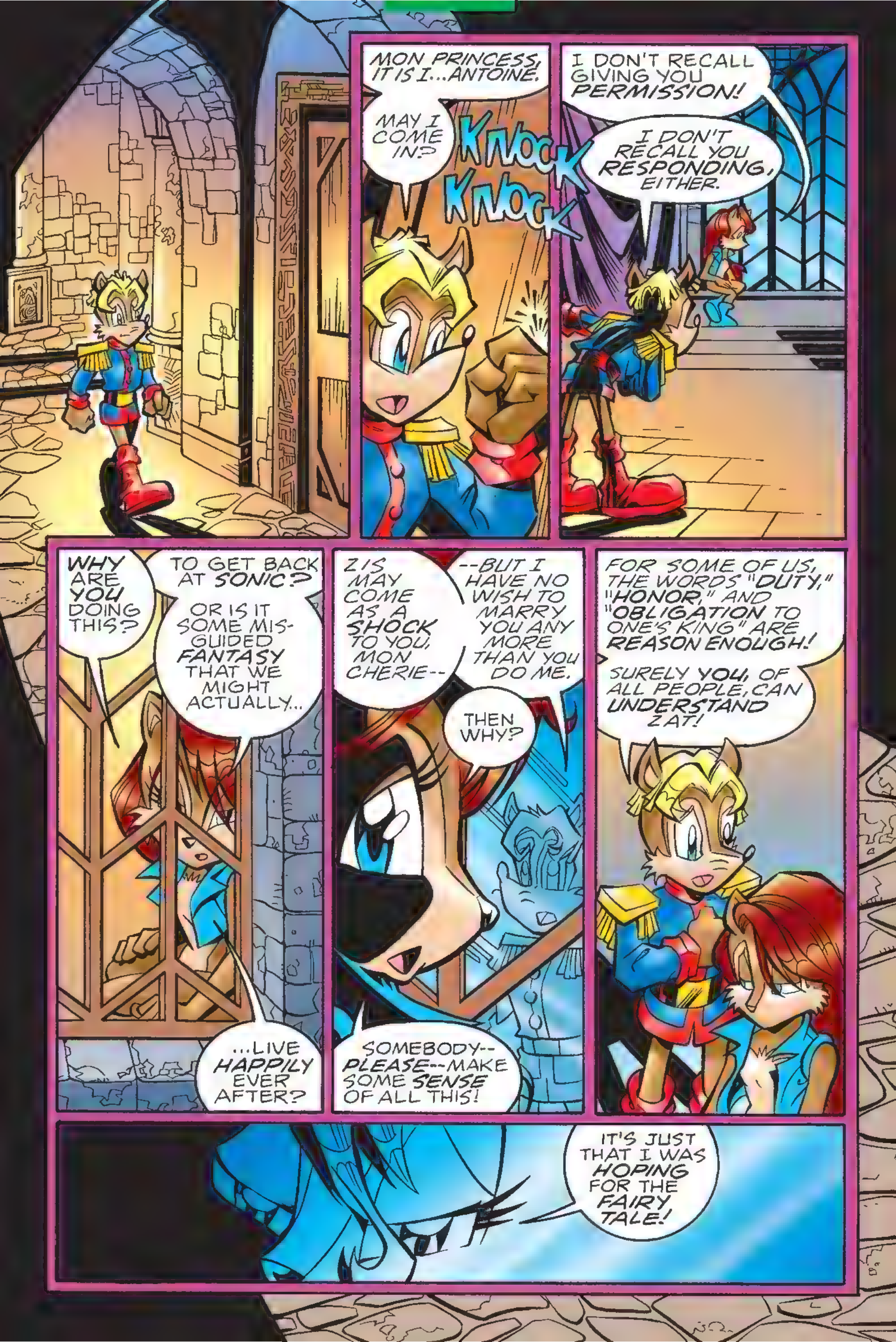
SALLY'S GETTING MARRIED TO ANTOINE THIS WEEKEND!!!

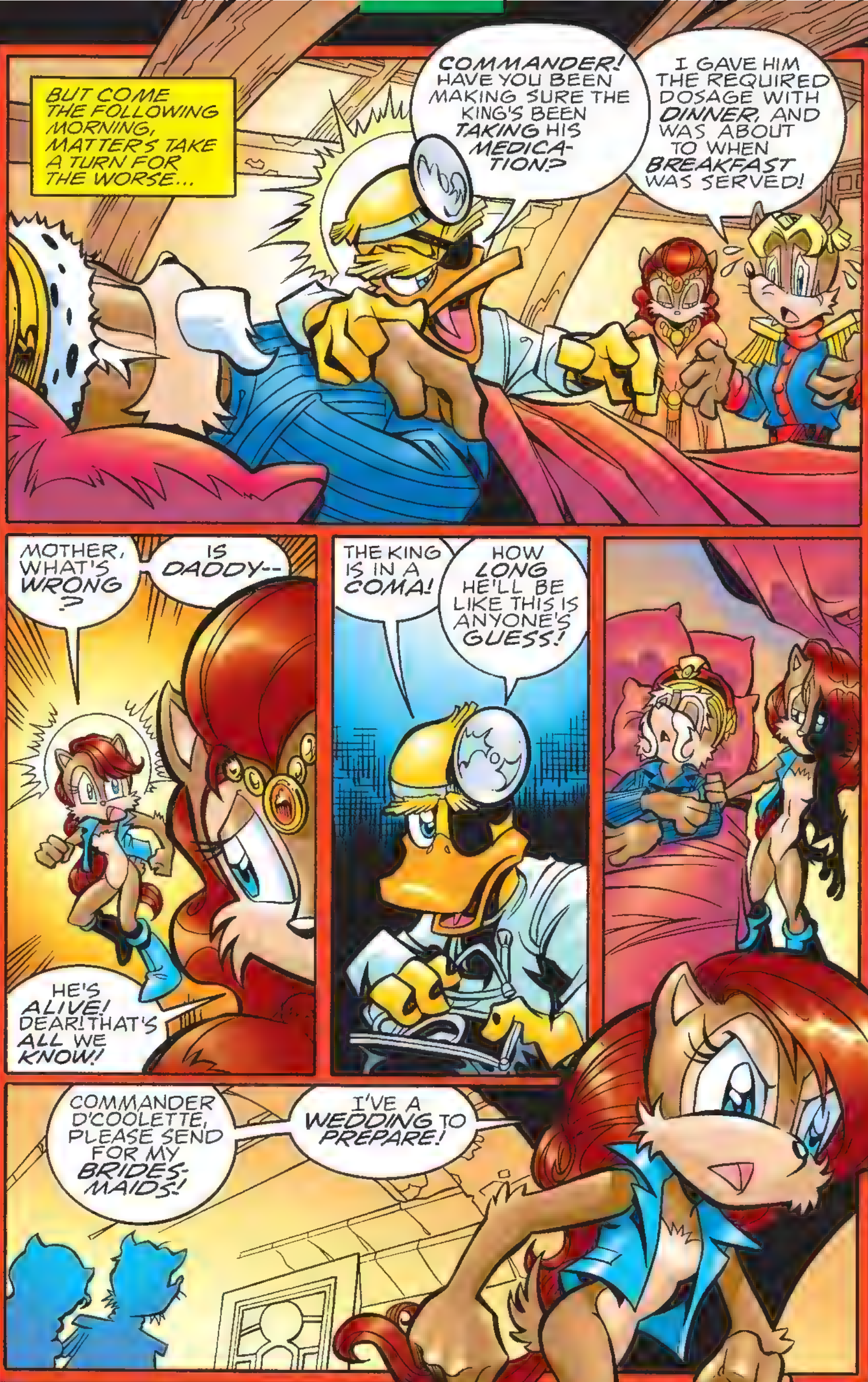
THIS IS A BAD JOKE, RIGHT?

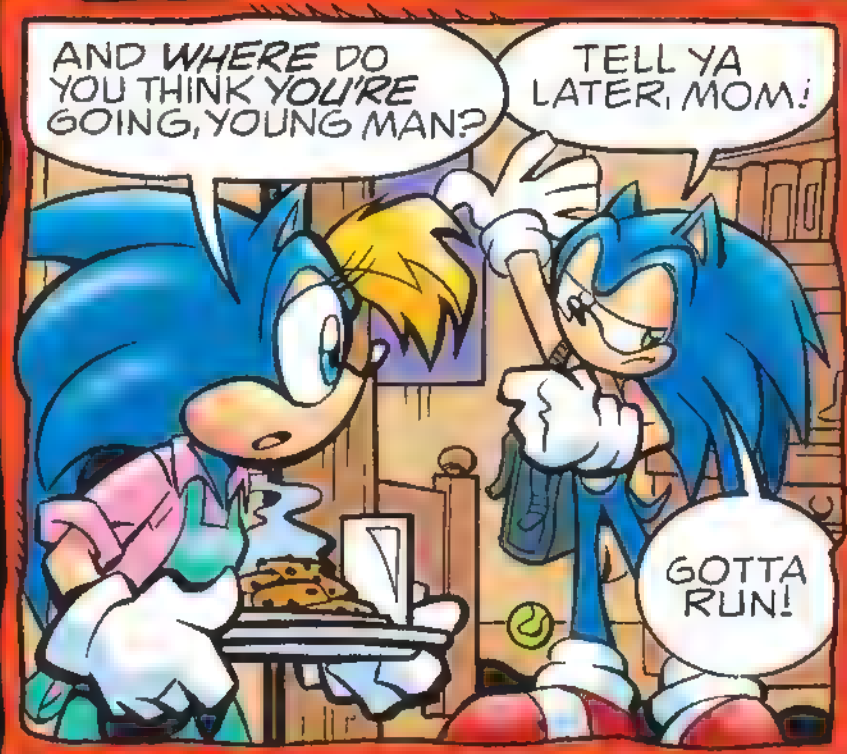
RIGHT?

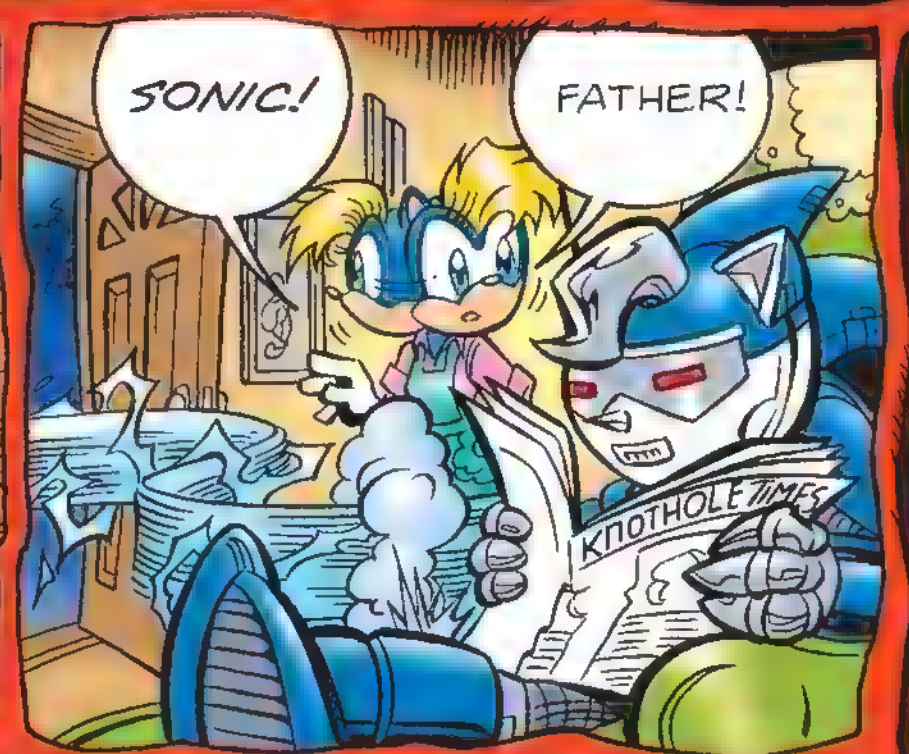

OKAY, SO SALLY SLAPPED ME IN FRONT OF EVERYONE--
--TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT THE WAY SHE RAGGED ON ME AT THE TIME--
--AND SURE, I WAS FURIOUS WITH HER FOR THE LONGEST TIME--
--BUT FOR HER TO UP AND MARRY ANTOINE WITHOUT TELLING ME?!
THAT JUST AIN'T RIGHT!
STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
HAVE YOU AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH ANYONE INSIDE?
OH, STUFF IT, TWAN!
SINCE WHEN DO I NEED ONE?
I'M SERIOUS, MON AMI!
YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP WITHOUT PERMISSION, AND IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!
SAYS WHO? YOU?!!!
GET REAL!!!
IS ZIS REAL ENOUGH FOR YOU?
HEY!

EN GARDE!
I COULD HAVE GUTTED YOU AS A THREAT TO THE THRONE--
--SO CONSIDER THIS A FRIENDLY WARNING, MONSIEUR!
NEXT TIME I WON'T BE SO GENEROUS!


MON PRINCESS, IT IS I...ANTOINE.
MAY I COME IN?
KNOCK KNOCK
I DON'T RECALL GIVING YOU PERMISSION!
I DON'T RECALL YOU RESPONDING, EITHER.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
TO GET BACK AT SONIC?
OR IS IT SOME MIS-GUIDED FANTASY THAT WE MIGHT ACTUALLY...
...LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?
ZIS MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO YOU, MON CHERIE--
--BUT I HAVE NO WISH TO MARRY YOU ANY MORE THAN YOU DO ME.
THEN WHY?
SOMEBODY--PLEASE--MAKE SOME SENSE OF ALL THIS!
FOR SOME OF US, THE WORDS "DUTY," "HONOR," AND "OBLIGATION TO ONE'S KING" ARE REASON ENOUGH!
SURELY YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, CAN UNDERSTAND ZAT!
IT'S JUST THAT I WAS HOPING FOR THE FAIRY TALE!


BUT COME THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MATTER'S TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
COMMANDER! HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING SURE THE KING'S BEEN TAKING HIS MEDICATION?
I GAVE HIM THE REQUIRED DOSAGE WITH DINNER, AND WAS ABOUT TO WHEN BREAKFAST WAS SERVED!
MOTHER, WHAT'S WRONG?
IS DADDY--
HE'S ALIVE! DEAR! THAT'S ALL WE KNOW!
THE KING IS IN A COMA!
HOW LONG HE'LL BE LIKE THIS IS ANYONE'S GUESS!
COMMANDER D'COOLETTE, PLEASE SEND FOR MY BRIDES-MAIDS!
I'VE A WEDDING TO PREPARE!





"--BUT YOU HAVE TO HOPE FOR THE BEST..."

I COULD CRASH THE PARTY, TAKE SALLY AWAY FROM THE SCENE, AND DEAL WITH THE FALLOUT LATER!

ON THE OTHER HAND, I COULD PLAY IT SMART AND SEE IF THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN HELP IS WILLING TO!

OPTION A OR B ?

AND SO IT COMES TO PASS...

WHETHER IT'S PRE-ORDAINED OR THE LUCK OF THE DRAW--

--FOR BETTER OR WORSE...

--THIS IS MY DESTINY!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'D BE MARRYING AN OGRE!

ANTOINE HAS A LOT OF **POSITIVE** ASPECTS A GIRL COULD LOVE!

SO WHY AM I SO UNHAPPY?

IT'S NOT LIKE **SONIC** DIDN'T HAVE HIS CHANCE!

IT'LL TAKE A WHILE-- BUT I'LL GET OVER HIM--

...EVENTUALLY!

DEARLY BELOVED, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY IN THE SPIRIT OF JOINING TWO BEINGS IN THE BOND OF MATRIMONY.

DO YOU-- **SALLY ALICIA ACORN**-- TAKE **ANTOINE D'COOLETTE** TO BE YOUR **LAWFUL SPOUSE**--UNTIL **DEATH** DO YOU **PART**?

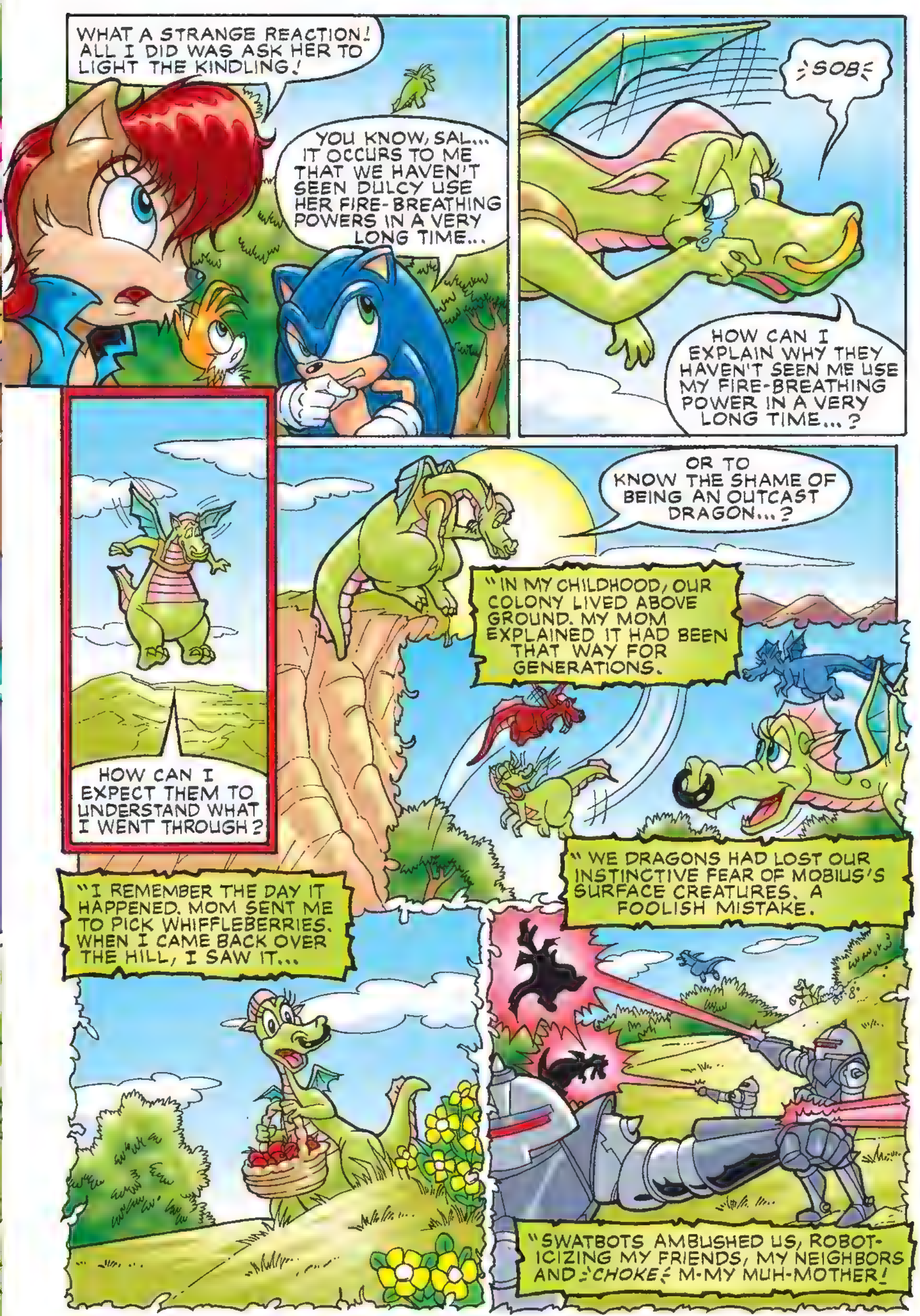
I DO!

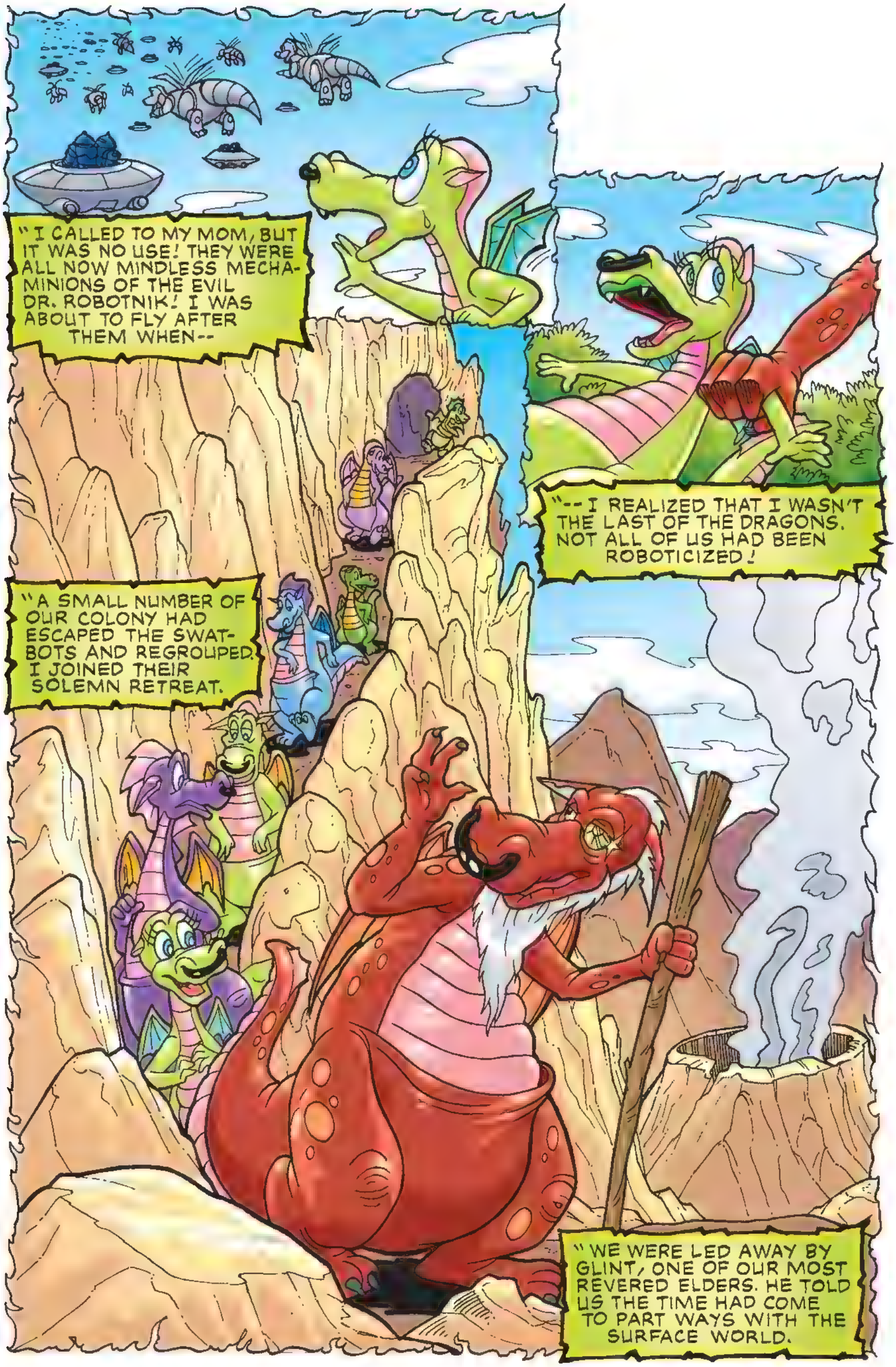
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS DULCY THE DRAGON

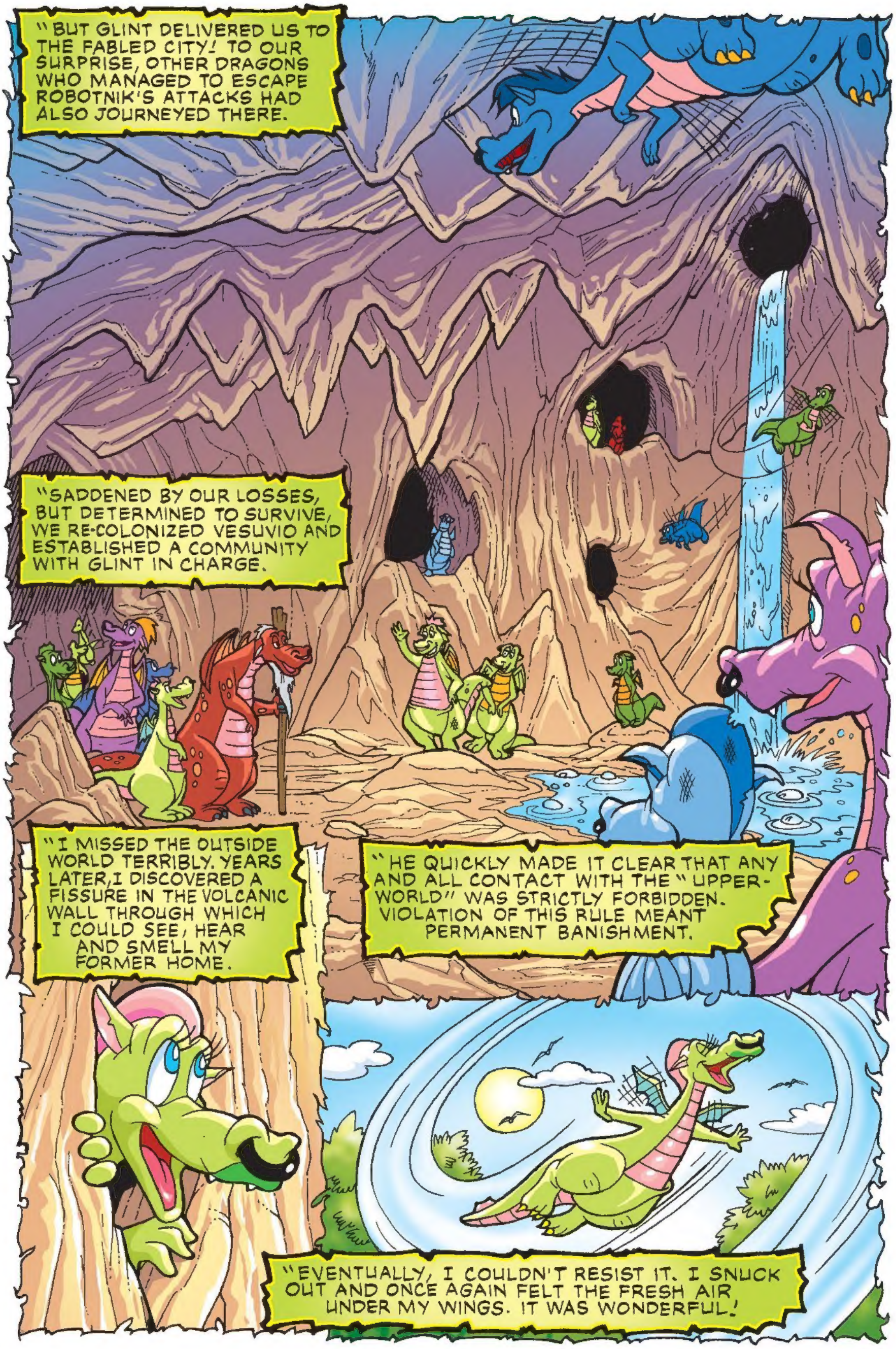
IN THE PRICE OF FLAME PART ONE

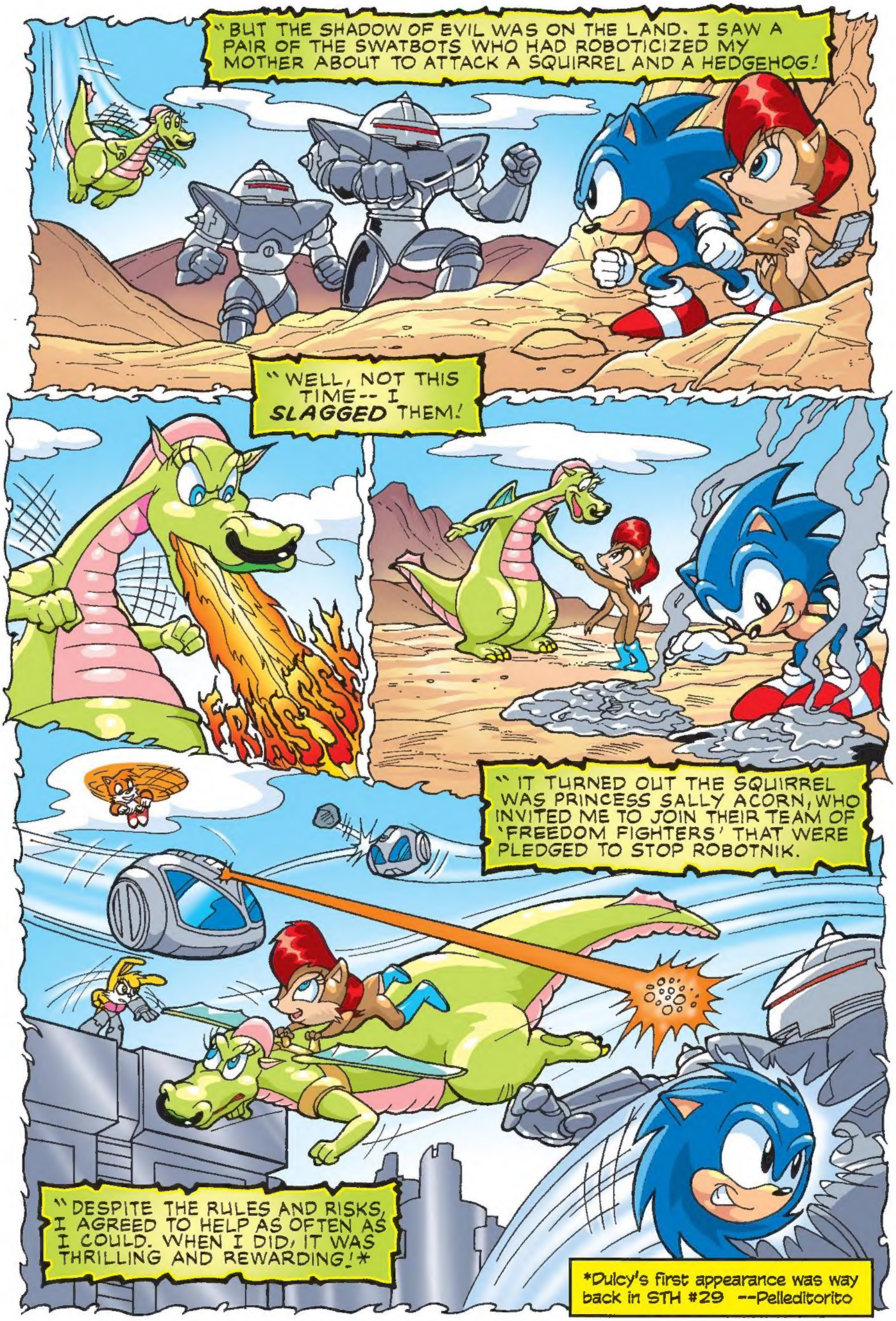
WRITES: **MIKE GALLAGHER**
DRAWS: **ART MAWHINNEY**
INKS/LETTERS: **MIKE HIGGINS**
COLORS: **JASON JENSEN**

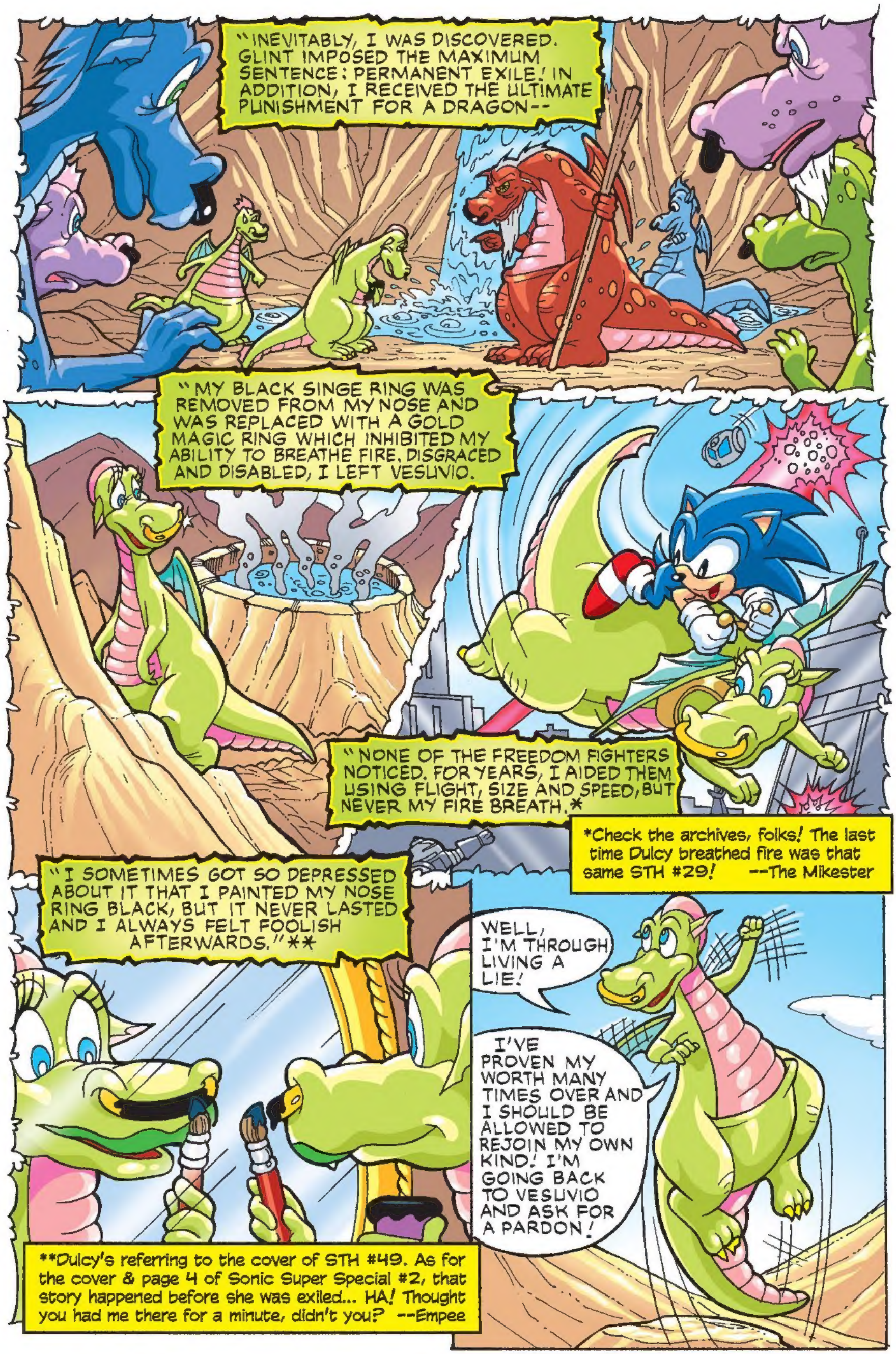

WHAT A STRANGE REACTION! ALL I DID WAS ASK HER TO LIGHT THE KINDLING!
YOU KNOW, SAL... IT OCCURS TO ME THAT WE HAVEN'T SEEN DULCY USE HER FIRE-BREATHING POWERS IN A VERY LONG TIME...
:SOB:
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN WHY THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ME USE MY FIRE-BREATHING POWER IN A VERY LONG TIME...?
HOW CAN I EXPECT THEM TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I WENT THROUGH?
OR TO KNOW THE SHAME OF BEING AN OUTCAST DRAGON...?
"IN MY CHILDHOOD, OUR COLONY LIVED ABOVE GROUND. MY MOM EXPLAINED IT HAD BEEN THAT WAY FOR GENERATIONS.
"I REMEMBER THE DAY IT HAPPENED. MOM SENT ME TO PICK WHIFFLEBERRIES. WHEN I CAME BACK OVER THE HILL, I SAW IT...
" WE DRAGONS HAD LOST OUR INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF MOBIUS'S SURFACE CREATURES. A FOOLISH MISTAKE.
"SWATBOTS AMBUSHED US, ROBOTICIZING MY FRIENDS, MY NEIGHBORS AND :CHOKE: M-MY MUH-MOTHER!

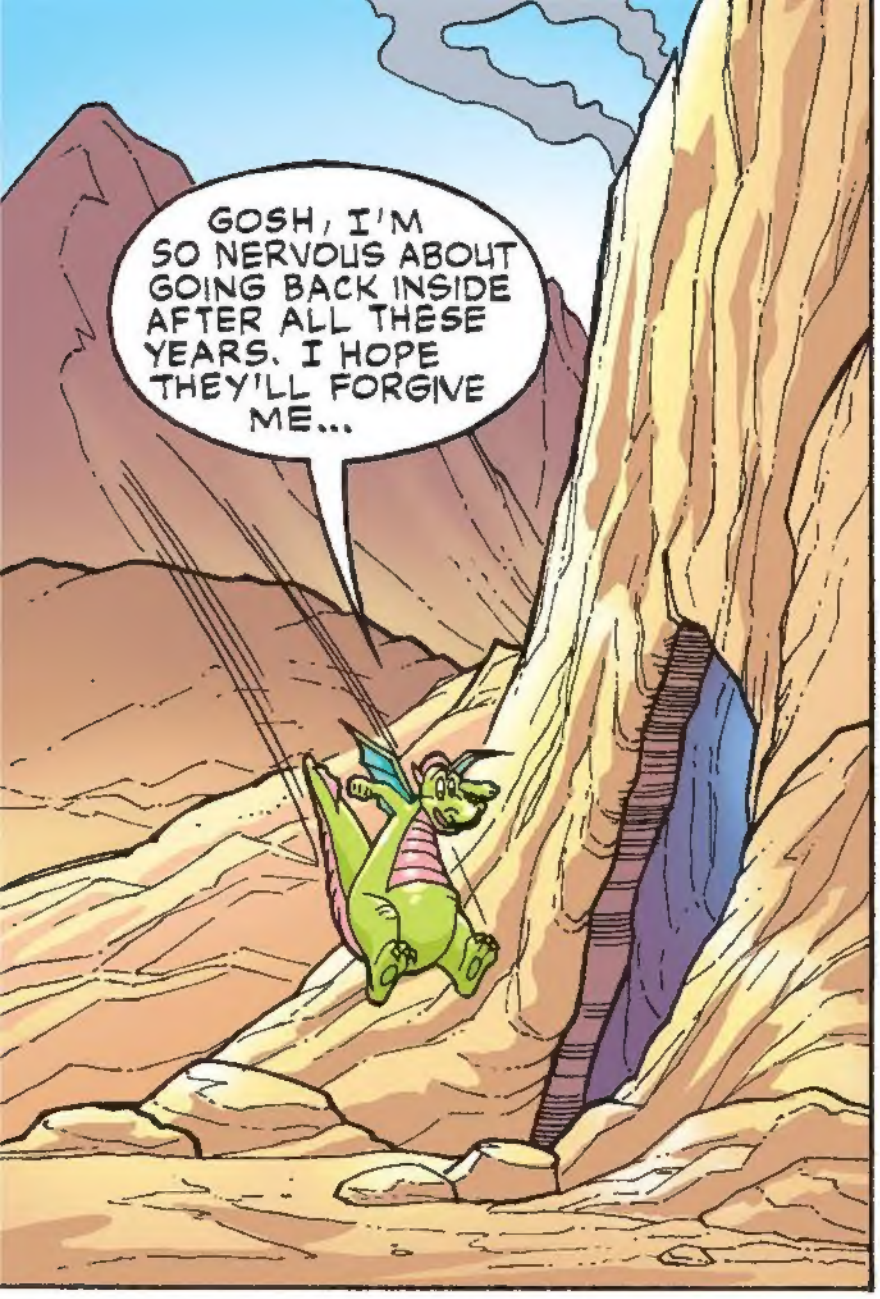

"I CALLED TO MY MOM, BUT IT WAS NO USE! THEY WERE ALL NOW MINDLESS MECHA-MINIONS OF THE EVIL DR. ROBOTNIK! I WAS ABOUT TO FLY AFTER THEM WHEN--
"--I REALIZED THAT I WASN'T THE LAST OF THE DRAGONS. NOT ALL OF US HAD BEEN ROBOTICIZED!
"A SMALL NUMBER OF OUR COLONY HAD ESCAPED THE SWAT-BOTS AND REGROUPED. I JOINED THEIR SOLEMN RETREAT.
"WE WERE LED AWAY BY GLINT, ONE OF OUR MOST REVERED ELDERS. HE TOLD US THE TIME HAD COME TO PART WAYS WITH THE SURFACE WORLD.

"TO OUR ASTONISHMENT AND DISBELIEF, HE VOWED TO LEAD US TO THE ANCIENT DRACONIAN CITY OF VESUVIO!
"VESUVIO! THE MYTHS SAID IT WAS A GIGANTIC, CAVERNOUS HABITAT UNDERNEATH THE PLANET'S LARGEST VOLCANO WHERE OUR ANCESTORS LIVED EONS AGO.
"LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE FIRST WALKERS FORGED THE MAGIC GOLDEN RINGS THERE ON THE BANKS OF LAVA LAKE. I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A FAIRY TALE...


"BUT GLINT DELIVERED US TO THE FABLED CITY! TO OUR SURPRISE, OTHER DRAGONS WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE ROBOTNIK'S ATTACKS HAD ALSO JOURNEYED THERE.
"SADDENED BY OUR LOSSES, BUT DETERMINED TO SURVIVE, WE RE-COLONIZED VESUVIO AND ESTABLISHED A COMMUNITY WITH GLINT IN CHARGE.
"I MISSED THE OUTSIDE WORLD TERRIBLY. YEARS LATER, I DISCOVERED A FISSURE IN THE VOLCANIC WALL THROUGH WHICH I COULD SEE, HEAR AND SMELL MY FORMER HOME.
"HE QUICKLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANY AND ALL CONTACT WITH THE "UPPER-WORLD" WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MEANT PERMANENT BANISHMENT.
"EVENTUALLY, I COULDN'T RESIST IT. I SNUCK OUT AND ONCE AGAIN FELT THE FRESH AIR UNDER MY WINGS. IT WAS WONDERFUL!


"BUT THE SHADOW OF EVIL WAS ON THE LAND. I SAW A PAIR OF THE SWATBOTS WHO HAD ROBOTICIZED MY MOTHER ABOUT TO ATTACK A SQUIRREL AND A HEDGEHOG!
"WELL, NOT THIS TIME-- I SLAGGED THEM!
FRASSH
"IT TURNED OUT THE SQUIRREL WAS PRINCESS SALLY ACORN, WHO INVITED ME TO JOIN THEIR TEAM OF 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS' THAT WERE PLEDGED TO STOP ROBOTNIK.
"DESPITE THE RULES AND RISKS, I AGREED TO HELP AS OFTEN AS I COULD. WHEN I DID, IT WAS THRILLING AND REWARDING!*
*Dulcy's first appearance was way back in STH #29 --Pelleditorito


"INEVITABLY, I WAS DISCOVERED. GLINT IMPOSED THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE: PERMANENT EXILE! IN ADDITION, I RECEIVED THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT FOR A DRAGON--
"MY BLACK SINGE RING WAS REMOVED FROM MY NOSE AND WAS REPLACED WITH A GOLD MAGIC RING WHICH INHIBITED MY ABILITY TO BREATHE FIRE. DISGRACED AND DISABLED, I LEFT VESUVIO.
"NONE OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS NOTICED. FOR YEARS, I AIDED THEM USING FLIGHT, SIZE AND SPEED, BUT NEVER MY FIRE BREATH.*
*Check the archives, folks! The last time Dulcy breathed fire was that same STH #29! --The Mikester
"I SOMETIMES GOT SO DEPRESSED ABOUT IT THAT I PAINTED MY NOSE RING BLACK, BUT IT NEVER LASTED AND I ALWAYS FELT FOOLISH AFTERWARDS."**
WELL, I'M THROUGH LIVING A LIE!
I'VE PROVEN MY WORTH MANY TIMES OVER AND I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REJOIN MY OWN KIND! I'M GOING BACK TO VESUVIO AND ASK FOR A PARDON!
**Dulcy's referring to the cover of STH #49. As for the cover & page 4 of Sonic Super Special #2, that story happened before she was exiled... HA! Thought you had me there for a minute, didn't you? --Empee


GOSH, I'M SO NERVOUS ABOUT GOING BACK INSIDE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. I HOPE THEY'LL FORGIVE ME...

NOT AFTER THIS, FREEDOM FIGHTER!
GASP! OH NO! IT CAN'T BE--
AIEEEEEE!
CHAKOOM

CHORTLE AT LAST!
AFTER LONG YEARS OF SECRETLY MONITORING DULCY, SHE HAS FINALLY LED ME TO VESUVIO! NOW MY ARMY OF MECHA-DRAGONS WILL CONQUER THIS ANCIENT, ENERGY-RICH SITE...
...ATTACK!!!
TO BE CONTINUED!